

NATIONAL LYME DISEASE
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the honor of participating with some of our colleagues in front of the Capitol Building to help call our country's attention to the devastating effects that Lyme disease has on so many of our citizens and particularly on our young children.

In my remarks at the rally I noted: We cannot permit the minds and bodies of those who are stricken with Lyme disease to simply waste away.

I had the pleasure of introducing as one of the principal speakers Mr. Evan White, a 17-year-old resident of Wesley Hills in Rockland County, in my own 20th Congressional District of New York. Evan was diagnosed with Lyme disease 5 years ago. In 1993, he testified before the Senate Labor and Human Relations Committee regarding the severe impact Lyme disease had on his life.

As I stated at the rally regarding Evan and others like him: The grit and courage that he and so many other young people like him have shown challenge us to ensure that the resources to conduct research into this disease are made available. For these young people, Lyme disease often cuts them down and disables them in the prime of their years. Often, they become ill and don't understand why—a condition that is very fearful for a young child.

When Evan White was first diagnosed with Lyme disease at the age of 12, his life and that of his family were turned upside down. He was confined to a wheelchair and unable to speak, read, or write for 3 years as he underwent painful rehabilitation and medical treatment.

Evan missed 4 years of schooling due to his illness, but his perseverance in the face of this adversity is a lesson to us all. His life, and the lives of others like him, challenge all of us to ensure that the resources to conduct research into Lyme disease are made available.

Speakers at the rally other than Evan underscored the importance of Lyme disease research. Dr. Stephen E. Straus of the National Institutes of Health announced the first intramural research on chronic disease and infection affecting the brain. Dr. Duane J. Gubler of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced the establishment of a task force. Karen Vanderhoof-Forschner, cofounder and chair of the Lyme Disease Foundation, Dr. Joseph Burrascano of Long Island, Dr. Anthony Lionetti of New Jersey, and the psychiatrist Dr. Richard Bransfield made excellent presentations regarding progress in the fight against Lyme disease. Ira Maurer, an attorney, discussed the plight of people caught in the middle of health care containment and physicians trying to practice good medicine, and Roberta Bethencourt, addressed the social impacts of Lyme disease. Hillary MacDonald, the daughter of a Lyme disease victim, informed us of the impact the disease had on her family.

In addition, I was joined at the podium by a host of our colleagues who had made names for themselves for their compassion and their

leadership in the Lyme disease crusade: Mrs. JOHNSON and Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut; Mr. SMITH and Mrs. ROUKEMA of New Jersey; Mr. VENTO of Minnesota and Mrs. LOWEY of New York. In addition, we were joined by Senator LIEBERMAN of Connecticut and Senators BRADLEY and LAUTENBERG of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I am inserting at this point in the RECORD the poignant remarks made at our rally by Evan White:

STATEMENT BY EVAN WHITE

Hello. My name is Evan White. I'm 17 years old, and I have Lyme Disease.

Five years ago, Lyme Disease took from me everything I had—except my spirit. At twelve years old when I was first diagnosed with Lyme, my life and my family's life changed completely. Hampered by, headaches, severe neurological damage and full body atrophy, I was confined to a wheelchair and unable to speak, read or write for three years. Due to this crippling disease I spent the next three years of my life in the hospital, undergoing various painful rehabilitation and medical treatments.

As my will strengthened during this, mentally and physically draining my time, with my family's support I testified to Senator Kennedy at a senate hearing on Lyme Disease. Although I had great difficulty speaking I told the Senator, that the children with Lyme could not think or sleep and that we needed his help.

That was three years ago, after a year of antibiotic treatment and endless rehabilitation and support from my family, I'm fortunate enough to speak with you here today. After much missed school, I now attend school full time and hope to attend college in a year. Although I still have many painful symptoms of Lyme, with your support I keep fighting to someday be Lyme-free.

But I am here to talk about the children across the country who suffer from Lyme Disease as I did. These children are very sick, very scared and they need your help. The most precious years of their lives are being robbed from a disease which comes from a creature that is barely visible. They can't be with their friends, go to school, play sports or even have fun, believe me I know.

It isn't fair that such young children become so sick. It's not fair that our parents should have to fight like soldiers to ensure that our illness is taken seriously. So to Everyone here today, to everyone in the government, help us, take Lyme seriously. We have to and we can not survive without you.

The children of America are in danger! You must help us by finding a cure now! Please don't forget us!

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
GOLF TEAM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 15, 1996

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to the Jackson State University [JSU] golf team. JSU is a Historically Black University located in Jackson, MS and recently won its eighth consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference [SWAC] golf championship.

This unprecedented accomplishment is a result of hard work and determination. When JSU travels to the University of Michigan to participate in the National Collegiate Athletic Association [NCAA] District 6 Central Region

playoffs later this month, they will once again be making history as the first HBCU to be invited to participate in the golf playoffs.

Eddie Payton is in his tenth year as JSU's golf coach. He currently holds a career record of 70 wins with 19 losses while compiling a 54–5 record in SWAC play, including a 52–0 record in the last eight years. He has garnered the SWAC Coach of the Year award eight times and the National Coach of the Year award twice.

Coach Payton also had a stellar football career both at Jackson State University and in the National Football League. As a member of the Detroit Lions, he once returned a punt for 89 yards for a touchdown and a kick 99 yards scoring twice in the same game while a member of the NFL's Detroit Lions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Coach Payton and the JSU golf team for their enormous success during the 1996 season.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM H. ZELIFF, JR.

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3230) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. ZELIFF. Mr. Chairman, the amendment under discussion is being offered in response to the discovery, in late 1995 and early 1996, of serious mismanagement by the White House Communications Agency, and those who share responsibility for oversight of that agency, including the White House Military Office, headed by Mr. Alan Sullivan, and the White House Office of Administration and Management, headed by Jodie Torkelson.

For those who do not know—and most do not know this—the White House Communications Agency is formally charged with providing telecommunications support to the President, and has existed since the late 1940's. However, today this once small office now spends more than \$ 100 million annually and employs more than 900 persons.

Recent mismanagement of this office has been significant, and necessitates serious reform. Findings and recommendations are detailed in two inspector general reports that were issued in November 1995 and April 1996. Chairman CLINGER's committee, and this subcommittee, have been investigating this office for almost 2 years. And we are planning a hearing on Thursday, May 16 on this very issue.

What we have now had confirmed to us, after extensive efforts by the White House last year to block any congressional oversight, is this.

The White House Communications Agency, which is funded through the Defense Department's Information Systems Agency, has been unchecked and has wasted millions of taxpayer dollars between 1993 and 1995. White House personnel responsible for oversight